

01013

1989/03/09

EAP PRESS GUIDANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

12/21/88

Thursday, March 9, 1989

20205

() RELEASE () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY () DENY () DELETE Non-Responsive Info

CHINA: ~~HELPING~~ IRAN BUILD MISSILE FACTORY

PA Exemptions

() DOWNGRADE TS to ()

Q: Any comment on the report that China is helping Iran build a ballistic missile factory?

A: -- WE HAVE SEEN THIS REPORT. WE CANNOT CONFIRM IT. ASSISTANCE BY ANY OUTSIDE COUNTRY IN CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A FACILITY WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE OF GREAT CONCERN TO US. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF SUCH INVOLVEMENT, AS IN ALL CASES WHICH COULD AFFECT MISSILE PROLIFERATION.

-- WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE GLOBAL DANGERS POSED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES AND THEIR COMPONENT TECHNOLOGY.

-- WE HAVE EXPRESSED THESE CONCERNS TO THE CHINESE ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS , MOST RECENTLY DURING PRESIDENT BUSH'S TRIP TO BEIJING.

-- CHINESE LEADERS HAVE RESPONDED THAT THEY WILL TAKE A PRUDENT AND RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE REGARDING WEAPONS SALES, INCLUDING THE SALE OF BALLISTIC MISSILES.

-- WE BELIEVE THE PRC UNDERSTANDS THE CONCERNS WE HAVE EXPRESSED, AND OUR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THEM THUS FAR PROVIDES A BASIS FOR OPTIMISM WITH REGARD TO THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILES.

-- THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT CHINESE IRBM'S HAVE BEEN SENT TO ANY COUNTRY BESIDES SAUDI ARABIA, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.

RECEIVED

Drafted: EAP/CM:JRDonovan
3/9/89:7-9141:W-1784M

Cleared: EAP:SRoy
EAP/CM:JBader
EAP/CM:RWilliams
PM/ISP:Pito
NEA/NGA:RClarke
INR/EAP:TFingar
INR/SFA/SE:RHuff
EAP/P:AAlmasov